

*a dead rest on me and pulled the trigger. His rifle was an old flintlock and I heard the click of the lock and turned my head quickly and saw the flash of the powder. I dropped to the ground and heard the ball pass over me. The Indian gave a yell, but he didn't get me. I was alright."*¹⁰

The fight at Battle Creek ended after four Indians were killed. Joseph returned to Salt Lake City on March 6th, but it wouldn't be long until he was called to fight the Indians again. On his return Joseph was appointed City Constable, a job that claimed every spare minute he had, and with all his other duties he had little time to spare. As Constable he worked closely with such well known lawmen and lawyers as Marshal Porter Rockwell, Hosea Stout, and Bill Hickman. He had known all three at Nauvoo and had been ordained a Presiding Elder under the hand of Hosea Stout. His friendship with Porter Rockwell when he was accused of the attempted assassination of Governor Boggs grew into an even stronger bond after they arrived in Zion and that friendship resulted in a strange event which changed Joseph's entire life.

When the Saints entered the Great Salt Lake Valley they were appalled to learn how extensive the Indian slave trade was. Strong bands like Chief Wakara's Utes would steal small children from weaker tribes such as the Diggers and sell them into slavery at Santa Fe or Taos, New Mexico. John R. Young described just how repulsive the practice was. "*Some of Wanship's band had just returned from a fight with Little Wolf's braves, where they succeeded in taking two small girls as prisoners. They had killed one girl and were torturing the other. She was the saddest looking piece of humanity I have ever seen. They had shingled her hair with knives and fire brands. All of the fleshy parts of her body, arms and legs had been hacked with knives, and fire brands had been driven into the wounds. She was gaunt from hunger and was smeared from head to toe with blood and ashes. Charley Decker purchased her from the Indians and brought her to my house where she was washed and clothed.*"¹¹

To put a stop to the slave trade, Brigham Young forbid Spanish slavers from entering Utah and urged Mormon families to purchase or adopt small children who were innocent victims of tribal wars. Solomon Carvalho described how Young himself adopted two Indian children. "*When I returned to camp I learned that*

10. Ibid.

11. Memoirs of John R. Young, Pg. 142, Deseret News Press, SLC, 1920.

Ken
Harris

p 79
p 84

Flag p 116-7

Governor Young had just purchased two children of about two or three years of age from the Utes. They had been prisoners who were stolen from the Snakes. When the Governor first saw them, they were out in the deep snow, digging with their little fingers for grass or roots. They were just living skeletons. I never saw a more piteous sight than those two naked infants, in bitter cold weather on the open snow, reduced by starvation to the verge of the grave."¹²

At the time of the first Indian troubles in Utah Valley, both Joseph and Porter Rockwell were there with the militia. At the mouth of Provo Canyon, Rockwell captured an Indian Chief who had two small children with him. The children had been captured from another tribe and were to be sold as slaves. Their feet had been tied together and they were hung head down across the Chief's horse. One was a boy about six years of age while the other was a girl about a year younger. They had been terribly abused as was always the case when one tribe captured children from another. Both were naked and covered with dried blood, and they had been starved for days. Their tiny arms and legs had been slashed with knives and their hair was matted with dry blood and was full of burrs, thorns, and dirt. Rockwell didn't know what to do with the children, so he asked Joseph to take them.

Joseph was at a loss to know what to do. He and Eunice had been married for seven years, but still had no children. He knew that Brigham Young had counselled the settlers to purchase or adopt Indian children whenever they could. He was wondering what to do when he recalled an incident his friend Daniel Jones had just told him of. Chief Arrapeen had captured a small child from another band but because of Brigham Young's new ban on Spanish slavers he could not sell the child. Jones had told Joseph that Chief Arrapeen had been enraged and had brought the child to him, telling Jones that the Mormons had no right to keep the Spanish from buying the children unless they bought them themselves. "Arrapeen then took the child by the heels and dashed its brains out on the hard ground, and then threw its body towards us, saying we had no hearts or we would have bought the child to save its life. It was a strange argument, but it was the argument of an enraged savage."¹³

12. Incidents Of Travels & Adventures In The Far West, Pg. 273, Solomon Carvahlo, 1859.

13. Forty Years Among The Indians, Pg. 51, Daniel Jones, Bookcraft, 1960.